Child labour in silk industry

3042. SHRI K. RAMA MOHANA RAO: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that an N.G.O. namely 'Human Rights Watch' has in a report stated that thousands of children toil hard as virtual slaves in country's silk industry; and

(b) what new steps Government are taking to eliminate the curse of child labour in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI VIJAY GOEL): (a) Yes,Sir.

(b) Government of India has taken steps for withdrawal and rehabilitation of child labour working in hazardous occupations to reduce the incidence of child labour in a particular district through the Schemes of National Child Labour Projects (NCLPs) and Grant-in-aid to Non-Governmental Organisations/Voluntary Organisations. Under the Scheme, special schools have been set up in the child labour endemic districts with the provision for non-formal/formal education, vocational training, stipend, nutrition, health-care etc. So far, 100 NCLPs have been sanctioned in 13 child labour endemic States for coverage of 2.11 lakh children.

In the Tenth Plan, the Government proposes to implement the Policy and programmes for elimination of child labour in a more focused, integrated and convergent manner. The Government would be making attempts to eliminate child labour from hazardous occupations and progressively move towards elimination of child labour in all its forms in the coming year.

Subsidiary Corporations under ESIC

3043. SHRI K. RAMA MOHANA RAO: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Employees State Insurance Corporation Review Panel has recommended for setting up of subsidiary corporations in connection with medical reimbursement of employees;

(b) if so, the details of the recommendations made by the Review Panel;

(c) whether the report has been studied by his Ministry; and

(d) if so, what action has been taken on the above recommendations?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI VIJAY GOEL): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) To overcome the duality of control in existing medical care to the beneficiaries, the MC Verma Committee has recommended setting up of State Level Subsidiary Corporations. These new bodies are to be made responsible for provision of medial care, procurement of equipment, maintenance of buildings, entering into tie-up agreements with other hospitals and developing relationship with other medical institutions. The review panel also suggested that these State Level Corporations would decide on charges to be levied for medical services to the employees of State Governments and others, which might in due course be covered by ESI Scheme. The ESI Corporation, Headquarters Office would undertake mainly supervisory functions over these Subsidiary Corporations.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) Action on such recommendations is taken by the Government keeping in view the justifiability and feasibility including financial implications of the recommendations.

Welfare of the unorganised workers

†3044. SHRI ABHAY KANT PRASAD: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) what efforts Government have made for welfare and improving conditions of the labourers of unorganised sector during the last three years;

(b) the amount provided to the State Governments for this purpose during the last three years, year-wise, State-wise and scheme-wise; and

(c) the number of labourers of unorganised sector benefited during the said period?

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.